

### Metz's magic march on

PARIS, Oct 15: Unfashionable Metz kept up their surprise run in the French league on Saturday, beating Bordeaux 2-0 to stay on top and remain unbeaten in all 13 games this season, reports Reuter.

A goal in each half from midfielder Jocelyn Blanchard, the second a spectacular effort, kept Metz three points clear of Lens, who had beaten Martigues 1-0 on Friday.

Blanchard scored his first goal after only 14 minutes with a blistering shot after a pass from little Brazilian playmaker Isalas.

But it was nothing compared with his second in the 59th minute when he received a corner and blasted it home on the half volley from more than 35 metres out.

Paris St Germain suffered a setback when they were held to a goalless draw in Lyon even though home keeper Pascal Olmeta was sent off in the first half for a professional foul.

The Parisians slipped to fourth, six points adrift of Metz, as Auxerre leapfrogged over them with a 2-1 home win over Nice.

Champions Nantes, who play Danes Aalborg in the European Cup on Wednesday, returned to form with a 2-0 win at bottom club Cannes in an ill-tempered match.

Bastia finished the game with nine men after two of their players received their marching orders in the second half.

### Wheaton bites dust

TEL AVIV, Oct 15: Unheralded Slovak Jan Krosiak produced his best tour performance to reach the final of the 275,000 dollars Israel Open tennis tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Krosiak pulled off a 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 semifinal victory over fourth-seeded David Wheaton of the United States.

The Slovak had previously won only once in 17 attempts in ATP Tour events, and by reaching today's final the world number 129 will enter the top 100.

Krosiak's opponent in the final is third-seeded Spaniard Javier Sanchez, who ousted seventh seed Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 6-2, 6-7, 7-6.

### Eriksson leads HK-Beijing rally

The first day of the Hong Kong-Beijing Rally has been successfully completed and, as expected, the event is already developing into a fierce battle between the two major teams, 555 Subaru World Rally Team and Mitsubishi, says a press release.

With just two tests taking place Friday, the advantage is held by the Mitsubishi which started quickly while the Subaru drivers have been taking a more cautious approach. Heavy rain earlier in the day meant there was a lot of water lying on the longer, second special stage and all the leading drivers complained that the surface was very slippery for the powerful rally cars.

With 23.90 km of stages completed, from a full competitive distance of 503 km, the rally is being headed by Kenneth Eriksson driving a Mitsubishi Lancer Ari Vatanen, in a similar car, is second.

Earlier in the day a large crowd, buzzing with excitement and enjoying traditional displays of Lion dancing, saw Possum Bourne in the Subaru Impreza 555, lead the 44 starters away from Hong Kong for this seven day, 3,700 km event.

The action started immediately with a short, 2.1 km stage on the navy land at Stonecutters island where both Bourne and Burns set the pace, with joint fastest time. Burns had a slight scare when he clipped a kerb hard but the tyre stayed inflated and the support crew at the end of the stage reported no damage.

After crossing into China, the drivers faced a tougher test with 21.80 km on the wet gravel stage, Nam Kwan Mountain, where sheer drops and rock faces made driving difficult. The Mitsubishi, having chosen more suitable tyres than the Subarus, struck back. Eriksson was fastest, five seconds ahead of his teammate, Vatanen.

## Hudson hits a hundred



HARARE, Oct 15: Opener Andrew Hudson hammered a century of mounting authority to give South Africa the upper hand in their one-off Test against Zimbabwe on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Hudson's 135, his third Test century, powered South Africa from their overnight 74 for three to 346 all-out — a first innings lead of 176.

Zimbabwe were 13 without loss in their second innings at the close on the second day.

Hudson, 45 overnight, reached three figures from 150 balls — his second 50 came off just 47 deliveries — in an aggressive display of shot-making.

### LATEST

HARARE, Oct 15: Zimbabwe were 272-8 in their second innings, a lead of 96, at the close on the third day of the one-off Test against South Africa today, reports Reuter.

Scores: Zimbabwe 170 and 272-8, South Africa 346.

Tiredness overcame Hudson eventually when a Brian Strang yorker sneaked under his bat to bowl him. He spent 310 minutes under a blazing sun, facing 236 deliveries and striking 18 fours and two sixes.

Hudson added 101 for the fifth wicket with all-rounder Brian McMillan, who completed a measured half-century from 97 deliveries.

Although McMillan's innings had started with a massive six off Bryan Strang, it slowed to a steady accumulation rather than a further stream of boundaries until he was joined by number 10 Allan Donald.

McMillan then raced to 96 before Donald, who lashed five boundaries in his Test-best score of 33, was bowled by a Brian Strang slower ball.

Last man Brett Schultz was unable to survive long enough to see McMillan to his hundred, falling leg before to Strang, and the all-rounder was left on 98 from 172 balls with 11 fours and a six.

Brian Strang finished with five for 101, having taken his first two wickets in the morning session.

He removed nightwatchman Craig Matthews for 10, slanting a full-length delivery across the right hander to gain an edge into the gully.



HUDSON ... 135

Jonny Rhodes (15) then pushed, dabbled and fidgeted with all his usual jauntiness until his innings also exploded into life with a huge straight six off a Brian Strang slower ball.

But Strang had the final word when another slanting delivery found the outside edge and Andy Flower held a simple catch behind the stumps.

Zimbabwe's 32-year-old debutant seamer Charlie Lock picked up two more wickets

to end with three for 68. Wicketkeeper Dave Richardson (13) pulled a Lock short-ball straight to long-leg and off-spinner Pat Symcox edged an away swinger to second slip where the oldest man on the field, 38-year-old Dave Houghton, held an extraordinary one-handed catch diving full length to his right.

When Zimbabwe launched their second innings late in the final session, Mark Dekker (2) and Grant Flower (5) survived eight overs of unbridled hostility from Donald and Schultz.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the one-off Test match between Zimbabwe and South Africa on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 170 (H Streak 53; B Schultz 4-54, A Donald 3-42).

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

Hudson b B Strang	135
Kirsten lbw B Streak	1
Cronje c A Flower b Streak	5
Cullinan c Whittall b Lock	11
Matthews c G Flower b A Flower b B Strang	10
Rhodes c A Flower b B Strang	15
McMillan not out	98
Richardson b B Strang b Lock	13
Symcox c Houghton b Lock	4
Donald b B Strang	33
Schultz lbw b B Strang	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-3, b-9, lb-6)	21
Total: (in 103 overs)	346
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-24; 3-59; 4-85; 5-145; 6-246; 7-261; 8-265; 9-344.	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Streak	26	6	79	2
Lock	17	4	68	3
B Strang	32	4	101	5
P Strang	23	2	58	0
Whittall	2	0	11	0
Flower	3	1	14	0

ZIMBABWE: Second Innings

M Dekker not out	2
G Flower not out	5
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-1)	6
Total: (for no wicket, 10 overs)	13

Bowling (to date)	O	M	R	W
Donald	4	2	2	0
Schultz	4	3	8	0
Symcox	2	1	2	0

### Majoli set for Sabatini

FILDERSTADT, Germany, Oct 15: Croatian teenager Iva Majoli earned a shot at her second tour title in eight days on Saturday by winning a tight semifinal against American Chanda Rubin at the Filderstadt Women's Indoor tournament, reports Reuter.

Majoli, who upset Australian Open champion Mary Pierce to win her first title at last Sunday's European Indoor tournament in Zurich, showed stamina to come through 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 after taking the third-set tie-break 7-2.

In today's final, the 18-year-old seventh seed faces Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who overcame a hesitant start to defeat Germany's defending champion Anke Huber 6-4, 6-1 in the other semifinal.

### Atletico stay in saddle

MADRID, Oct 15: Atletico Madrid beat Deportivo Coruna 1-0 at home on Saturday to stay two points clear at the top of the Spanish First Division table over Barcelona, who thrashed Athletic Bilbao 4-1, reports Reuter.

After eight matches both teams are still unbeaten, with Atletico on 22 points and Barcelona on 20.

The only goal of the hard-fought match in Madrid came in injury time at the end of the first half.

Serbian Milanko Pantic swung in a typically dangerous near-post corner and Roberto Fresnedoso flicked on for Argentine midfielder Diego Simone to head home.

Atletico were content to concede territory to Coruna after the break, relying on the occasional counter.

League top scorer Bebeto and Russian Dimitri Radtchenko missed chances for the visitors.

Toni Velamazán shot Barcelona into an early lead at their Camp Nou stadium against inconsistent Athletic Bilbao.

Carlos Garcia equalised for the visitors after the interval against the run of play.

The 92,000 crowd called for 19-year-old De La Pena to be brought on and within five minutes of coming on he had put Barcelona back in front with a spectacular strike.

Bilbao pushed forward for a second equaliser, leaving gaps at the back which Barcelona youngsters Oscar Garcia and Carecas exploited to wrap up the impressive 4-1 victory.

## Life's last battle lost



GLASGOW, Oct 15: Scottish boxer James Murray was pronounced dead today, reports Reuter.

Murray had not regained consciousness since collapsing at the end of a 12-round bantamweight bout yesterday which ended with fans rioting.

Murray, 25, underwent emergency surgery at Glasgow's Southern Central Hospital yesterday to remove a blood clot from his brain.

His family were at his bedside all night.

Boxing authorities have begun an investigation into the rioting which followed Murray's fight against British title holder Drew Docherty. Five fans were injured as rioters threw chairs, bottles and glasses.

Eyewitnesses quoted in several Sunday newspapers said drunken rioters had delayed paramedics from reaching the stricken Murray in the ring by vital seconds.

Earlier, doctors on Saturday night told the family of the stricken boxer their son was "clinically dead", said his manager Alex Morrison.

He said neurosurgeon Garth Cruikshank told the fighter's parents, Margaret and Kenny, that they cannot switch off his life support machine until today because of the drugs still in the young boxer's system.

As he emerged from the hospital, looking tired and distraught, Morrison said: They (Murray's parents) have been told he is clinically dead.

"They were advised to go home tonight but they do not want to leave their son."

A spokesman for Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, where Murray is in intensive care, said: "His condition is expected to remain critical overnight."

"Further assessment will be made in the morning."

Bantamweight Murray has been on a life support machine since Friday as investigations opened into a riot by spectators which followed the sudden, tragic end of his British championship fight with holder Drew Docherty.

Medical sources said that if a patient had been receiving drugs, that would affect his brain activity or mental state and the drugs had to clear his system before a full assessment could be made.

Murray, 25, was taken to hospital on Friday night after he was knocked unconscious.

He underwent emergency surgery on Saturday to remove a blood clot from the left side of his brain. Doctors described the operation as "routine".

But Mr Morrison said earlier on Saturday: "The family have not been given much hope and told to expect the worst."

As the boxer's family tried to deal with their grief, the boxing authorities started to investigate the riot.

The incident also prompted a debate on the morality of the sport, with Frank Warren, one of Britain's leading boxing promoters, admitting he found it hard to justify after seeing the extent of Murray's injuries.

People were fleeing with cuts and scars, women were crying and being carried away and other people were sprinting to the exits.

He added: "I just hope those people who were involved, flinging things around while this boy was in a life and death situation, can live with their consciences."

Five fans were treated in hospital for injuries.

Organisation (WBO) heavyweight title defeat by Herbie Hide in London. Doctors found he had cumulative damage to his brain from years of punches and told him to retire from boxing.

January, 1993: Yasuji Hamakawa of Japan, a 23-year-old lightweight, died in hospital without regaining consciousness three weeks after being floored twice in the seventh round of an eight-round title bout in Osaka, western Japan.

December, 1991: Japanese junior featherweight Minoru Katsumata, 20, died after falling into a coma following a 10th round stoppage by compatriot Takashi Hurata in Tokyo.

1991: Michael Watson spent 40 weeks in a coma and was left brain-damaged and confined to a wheelchair following his world title defeat in London by fellow Briton Chris Eubank.

November, 1991: South African Clive Skwebe died in hospital nine days after being knocked out. Skwebe, 20, had undergone two brain operations and lapsed into a coma after he was knocked out in the eighth round by Ndoda Mayende in a flyweight bout on November 17.

May, 1991: South African featherweight Patrick Diniso, 22, died after he was knocked unconscious during a bout.

August, 1990: Australian light heavyweight boxer Patrick Stone died the day after winning his Queensland state title fight against Gary Wills. An injury in the right hand side of the brain was given as the cause of death.

1990: Japanese bantamweight Jun Yonesaka, 23, died four days after a fight in Hokkaido in northern Japan.

### Meng halts Hu's run

BEIJING, Oct 15: China's Meng Xianhui stopped compatriot Hu Gangjun winning a third straight Beijing marathon today, reports AFP.

Meng, 21, won the men's race in 2 hours 16 minutes and 20 seconds and his coach said he could do even better.

Defending champion Hu clocked 2:16:29, nearly six minutes slower than his best time in 1994. Xinhua news agency said, Hu has been plagued by a foot injury all the season.

Meng pulled away from Hu Gangjun, Vladimir Kotov of Belarus and Nelson Ndepeva of Kenya in the last two kilometres (1.2 miles). Kotov was third at 2:16:39 and Ndepeva fourth at 2:17:13.

Despite his victory Meng said, "I am not satisfied with the result."

## Chang foils Scud attack



TOKYO, Oct 15: Top seed Michael Chang of the United States easily overcame the bullet serves of giant-killing Australian Mark Philippoussis today to capture the 1.02 million dollars Seiko Super tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Change, ranked fifth in the world, displayed a remarkable range of shots and kept up steady pressure on Philippoussis to take his first Seiko title 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 20 minutes.

Change, the runner-up at least year's tournament, used a variety of return shots to blunt the powerful serves of the young Australian, who disposed of three seeded players in fighting his way through to the final.

"I think he was starting to get frustrated because I was able to get quite a few of his serves back," Change said. "Over the last couple of weeks, I don't think, he was used to seeing many of his serves come back."

Philippoussis, nicknamed "Scud" after the destructive Gulf War missile, came into today's final with 55 service aces against Chang's 26. But he only managed seven aces against Chang's eight in the match.

Philippoussis faced twelve service break points, and at times appeared baffled by the range and placing of Chang's returns.

"He was really gearing to my serves and putting a lot of pressure on me," said Philippoussis.

The 18-year-old Melbourne native showed promise in breaking Chang's service in the third game of the first set, but was broken straight back.

Philippoussis, ranked 60 this week, used his powerful serve to survive three match points in game nine of the second set, notching back to back service aces and winning another point.

In the next game, Philippoussis briefly threatened to break Chang's service until the American smashed the winning shot.

The unseeded Philippoussis earned the right to play Chang with upsets of fifth seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand, and fourth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

Philippoussis stands to move from his current 60th ranking to as high as the top 40, Tour officials said.

Today's victory is the 10th Asian title for Chang, who received 153,000 dollars and as many as 280 ranking points.

## Asian-German showdown



NIMES, France, Oct 15: China's world champion Kong Linghui will meet Germany's former European champion Jorg Roskopf in today's final of the 16th men's singles World Cup table tennis tournament here, reports AFP.

Kong, world-ranked second, ended the comeback hopes of France's Jean-Philippe Gatien 21-15, 21-19, 7-21, 19-21, 21-14 despite a late rally from the 1993 world champion.

And Roskopf came back from 2-1 down to defeat world runner-up and world number eight Liu Guoliang of China 21-17, 18-21, 16-21, 21-16, 21-5.

China's coach Hui Jun believed the one Asian, one European representation in the final, with a 33,000 dollars winners' prize at stake, summed up the standard of table tennis in the world.

"I think the Asian and European men are about 50-50 now," Hui said, indicating China's seven gold-medal haul at the May World Championships was not a true reflection of the current continental standards.

Gatien fought hard against Kong, but, with his second five-set match within a few hours, it proved too much for the defending champion.

He had beaten world number one Wang Tao 24-22 in the fifth set of his quarter-final earlier Saturday afternoon.

Gatien trailed 2-0, and then by 2-1 and 17-13, but still managed to level the scores at 2-2.

Pirates on target

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 15: Orlando Pirates kept alive their hopes of becoming the first South African club to reach a continental final by defeating Express of Uganda 1-0 in a Champions' Cup semifinal, first leg match here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Forward Jerry Skosana scored the winning goal after 52 minutes, sending goalkeeper Abu Kiyengi the wrong way from close range after Brendan Silen picked up a deep cross by Helman Mkhalele.

An enthusiastic crowd of 40,000 at the FNB stadium saw Pirates dominate territorially for long periods but struggle to break down a defensive barrier erected by the Ugandans.

In the closing stages, Pirates coach Joe Frickleton replaced Dumisani Ngobe and Skosana with Bruce Ramokadi and Marks Mponyane in an attempt to snatch a second goal ahead of the return game in Kampala on October 28.

But in the final set, right hander Kong was too much for Gatien and the 20-year-old quickly raced into an 18-9 lead to disappoint the 1,000-strong home crowd.

However Gatien will compete for a place on the podium, a fitting way to celebrate his 27th birthday on Monday, in a third-place play-off today against Liu.

Roskopf also trailed 2-1 to Kiu in his semifinal, but he

dared to take risks and it proved successful.

The German, who won the European Masters just last month, attempted spectacular winners from both flanks — and nearly all found the target.

In the final set, Roskopf's backhand and forehand smashed past Liu with uncanny accuracy and he raced to a 19-4 lead before winning the decider 21-5.



Top seed Michael Chang of the United States poses with the Seiko Super tennis trophy after beating Australian Mark Philippoussis in the final in Tokyo on Oct 15. —AFP/UNB photo